



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**May 29, 2008**

**TO:** Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

**FROM:** Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**RE:** Weekly E-Newsletter

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **Mass notification system available for schools and districts**
- **Feedback on annual Supply and Demand report**
- **Fall Conference dates**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS (GO TO TOP)**

The State Department of Education has established an agreement with TxtWire Communications, an Idaho Falls-based mobile communications company, to offer school districts a wireless, text-based mass notification system called TxtDispatcher at a drastically reduced rate. This agreement is a result of the Safe and Secure Schools Assessment that the Department conducted last year. As a result of the assessment, the Department decided to focus some of its resources in supporting schools with effective crisis response planning and utilizing the statewide buying power to help schools and districts purchase high-quality technology and security equipment.

In a crisis or emergency situation, timely and accurate information is critical for school personnel, students, parents, first responders and other stakeholders. The agreement with TxtWire allows districts to access this technology for 30 cents per student per year. Under this agreement, interested parties (students, teachers, parents or others) can subscribe to the service and receive electronic messages from school administrators that can be sent to cell phones, wireless devices or e-mail accounts. Subscribers only receive alerts and notifications they have agreed to and can unsubscribe at any time. There is no limit to how many individuals subscribe, nor is there a limit on the number of messages that can be sent during the year.

The Bonneville School District in Idaho Falls has already implemented the TxtDispatcher program. "In January we closed our schools for bad weather and were able to inform 2,000 parents in a matter of seconds," said Guy Bliesner, Health and Safety Coordinator for the Bonneville School District. "TxtDispatcher is a valuable tool for improving emergency communications with parents, students and staff."

If your school or district would like to learn more about this technology, please contact Creg Fielding with TxtWire Communications at (208) 680-9056.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

If you have questions about school safety and security or the Department's Safe and Secure Schools Assessment, please contact Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, at (208) 332-6960 or [MAMcCarter@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MAMcCarter@sde.idaho.gov).

### FEEDBACK ON ANNUAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND REPORT (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education's Teacher Certification office is evaluating the annual Supply and Demand Report, which gathers information on staffing and personnel issues throughout the state, to determine how useful this report is to schools and districts in its current forms and to find ways in which we can improve its value.

We would greatly appreciate your feedback on this topic. Please read the questions below and send your responses and any other comments or suggestions you might have via e-mail to Keith Potter at [KDPotter@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:KDPotter@sde.idaho.gov) or Shannon Haas at [SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov).

1. How useful is the Supply and Demand report in its current form?
2. For what purposes do you use the Supply and Demand report?
3. What information not currently captured in the report would be useful to you?
4. Would you like the Supply and Demand report to be more predictive, if possible, rather than providing reports that reflect the previous year? Why or why not?

For more information or to view the most recent Supply and Demand report, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/).

### FALL CONFERENCE DATES (GO TO TOP)

Here is a list of upcoming fall conferences that are scheduled during the statewide in-service days on October 2-3, 2008. If you have a fall conference that you would like listed in the Weekly E-Newsletter, please e-mail information about the conference to Melissa McGrath at [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov).

#### **"Walk the Talk--Literacy Teachers in Action"**

Idaho Council of Teachers of English/Idaho Council International Reading Association State Conference  
Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls  
October 2-3, 2008  
Contact: Brandon Bolyard at [Bolyard@tfstd.k12.id.us](mailto:Bolyard@tfstd.k12.id.us)

#### **"Our Sense of Place"**

The Idaho History and Social Sciences State Conference  
Boise High School in Boise  
October 2-3, 2008  
Contact: Russ Heller at [russ.heller@boiseschools.org](mailto:russ.heller@boiseschools.org)

#### **"Connecting Students Futures by Connecting Math and Science"**

Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Collaborative Fall Conference  
Bonneville High School in Idaho Falls  
October 2-3, 2008

For more information: <http://www.stoller-eser.com/ista/conference.htm>

### **“Partners Helping Students”**

Idaho School Counseling Association and the Idaho School Psychologist Association  
Collaborative Fall Conference  
Grove Hotel in Boise  
October 2-3, 2008

For more information: [www.idahoschoolcounselor.org/conference](http://www.idahoschoolcounselor.org/conference).

### **“Whole Child – Whole Teacher Regional Education Conference”**

Idaho Falls School District 91 and the D91 Education Foundation  
Skyline High School in Idaho Falls  
October 2, 2008

For more information: Contact Elisa Saffle at [saffelis@d91.k12.id.us](mailto:saffelis@d91.k12.id.us) or Shelly Smede  
[smedshel@d91.k12.id.us](mailto:smedshel@d91.k12.id.us)

### **“Going for Educational Gold: Empowering both Students and Teachers”**

Idaho Council for Exceptional Children, Idaho Art Educators Association and Special Olympics Idaho  
Collaborative Fall Conference  
Sun Valley  
October 1-2, 2008

For more information: Visit [www.idahocec.org](http://www.idahocec.org) or e-mail [Karen.gillette@boiseschools.org](mailto:Karen.gillette@boiseschools.org).

## **SUPERINTENDENT’S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)**

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho Council for Technology in Learning (ICTL) meeting at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, June 4 in Idaho Falls.
- Superintendent Luna will tour White Pine Charter School at noon on Wednesday, June 4 in Ammon.

## **WHAT’S NEW (GO TO TOP)**

- **Middle School Task Force regional meetings** – The Middle School Task Force is conducting regional public meetings across the state. Several of the meetings have been rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts. Here are the updated dates of regional task force meetings. The task force is holding public meetings to discuss its current recommendations with the general public. The Middle School Task Force was created by the State Department of Education and State Board of Education in 2007 to ensure every Idaho student is prepared to be successful in high school and beyond.

### **Meeting dates and locations:**

Office Location	Telephone	Speech/Hearing Impaired	Fax
650 West State Street	208-332-6800	1-800-377-3529	208-334-2228



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- June 4: Idaho Falls, Idaho Falls School District Board Room
- June 5: Pocatello, Pocatello School District Board Room
- June 9: Meridian, Meridian School District office, Middle Clearwater Room

The meetings are scheduled from 5:30-7 p.m. Meetings in Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston will be announced at a later date. Learn more about the Task Force at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/newsandpress/publications.asp>. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Joan MacMillan, Initiatives Coordinator at the Department, at (208) 332-6812 or [JEMacMillan@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JEMacMillan@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Curricular Materials/Textbook Caravan Survey** – The State Department of Education is collecting data on how to improve the Textbook Caravan. Please assist us by completing the survey located at [http://www.sde.state.id.us/beta/curricular\\_materials/survey/default.asp](http://www.sde.state.id.us/beta/curricular_materials/survey/default.asp). This survey will help us plan future Textbook Caravans to better support your school needs, as school participation is essential for its continued success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Val Fenske, Curricular Materials Coordinator, at (208) 332-6967 or [VAFenske@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:VAFenske@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Comment on temporary rule regarding criminal history checks** – The State Department of Education is seeking public comment on the Proposed Temporary Rules to Implement HB 566a, a law passed earlier this year to tighten the law on criminal history checks for personnel working in Idaho school buildings. Please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/) and look under the “New” heading to review the temporary rule and submit comments to Keith Potter at [KDPotter@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:KDPotter@sde.idaho.gov).

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Department job opening** – The State Department of Education is seeking outstanding candidates to apply for the position of Response to Intervention (RTI) Coordinator. The primary responsibility of the RTI Coordinator is to coordinate the administration of a statewide system of RTI for the state. The RTI Coordinator may also be called upon to assist in a variety of educational and administrative duties relating to the operation of local schools. The RTI Coordinator must have a strong academic background in teaching and learning and have extensive knowledge of Response to Intervention in relation to applications of RTI in general education, to Title programs under No Child Left Behind, and to Special Education services under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. To download an application, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/jobopenings](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/jobopenings).
- **Hispanic Education Summit** – The Idaho Summit on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students will be held July 24-25, 2008 at Boise State University in Boise. This event will provide educators, community leaders, policy makers, and interested members of the public with a forum for networking and exchanging information about current education issues and needs within Idaho's Hispanic community. Registration is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. Visit [http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education\\_summit.asp](http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education_summit.asp) to register online. If you have questions, please contact Lymaris Blackmon at the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs at (208) 334-3776.
- **Idaho Human Rights summer conference** – The Idaho Human Rights Education Center is accepting applications for its June 9-13, 2008 Summer Institute for Teachers (grades 5-12). The institute is designed to immerse teachers in content, pedagogy, and project-based learning that examines broader human rights issues and themes through the





## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

lens of the state's learning standards, mandate for citizenship education, and integration of character education/service learning. Applications are available online at [www.idaho-humanrights.org](http://www.idaho-humanrights.org) (click into Education) or by calling (208) 345-0304. Institute lodging, meals, and a participant travel stipend are funded by the Center; graduate credit is available through Boise State University.

- **Civil Liberties Symposium** – The third annual Civil Liberties Symposium will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 19 and 20 on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls. This annual symposium is one of the key events in helping to increase awareness and appreciation of civil liberties both from a historical and a present day standpoint. The symposium costs \$60 for sessions and an additional \$30 for meals. For further information, please contact CSI History Professor and conference organizer Russ Tremayne at (208) 732-6885 or at [rtremayne@csi.edu](mailto:rtremayne@csi.edu). To register, call Lauri Watkins at (208) 732-6850 or Connie Stout at CSI at (208) 732-6800, or register online at <http://www.boisestate.edu> and click on “admissions.”
- **Workshops for school bus technicians** – The State Department of Education's Student Transportation office annual training for school bus technicians will be held July 15-17, 2008 at Boise State University. The workshop requires a registration fee of \$125, which will be reimbursable on your district's annual reimbursement claim form under “travel expenses - registrations.” Please acquire the necessary support from your immediate supervisor and submit your registration form(s) online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. If you have questions, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.
- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. Idaho has not hosted the convention since 1997, and the work within the state marking the trail, discovering forgotten journals and diaries, and research of all kinds has progressed considerably the last few years. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is available through Northwest Nazarene University in conjunction with the conference. Registration information is posted at [www.idahooccta.org](http://www.idahooccta.org) or you can contact Cathy Bourner with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.
- **Financial literacy curriculum and teacher training** – The NEFE Financial Planning Program is available to high school teachers of business, economics, family and consumer sciences, marketing, math and others. You can learn how to teach personal finance in your classes by using the free NEFE School Financial Planning Program Curriculum. Registration is free and includes a binder of teaching materials, lunch, snacks, door prizes, & more! Sessions are scheduled as follows: July 9 in Twin Falls, July 10 in Idaho Falls, July 15 in Lewiston, July 17 in Coeur d'Alene, and June 18 and 19 in Boise. For more information on summer dates, please contact: LaRaye O'Brien at the Idaho Credit Union League at (208) 343-4341 or [Lobrien@idahocul.org](mailto:Lobrien@idahocul.org); or contact Lyle Hansen, the University of Idaho Jerome County Extension Educator, at (208) 324-7578 or [lhansen@uidaho.edu](mailto:lhansen@uidaho.edu).
- **Teacher of the Month award** – Northwest Nazarene University and Peak Broadcasting are recognizing Treasure Valley teachers and the positive impacts they have on our children by presenting monthly a Teacher-of-the Month award on 630 KFXD All Talk Radio with Jon and Chris. To nominate a teacher, visit [www.kfxd.com](http://www.kfxd.com) and write a brief description on why he or she deserves this recognition. The awards will be announced on-air on the last Friday of the month. For more information, contact Northwest Nazarene University at (208) 467-8412.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **May 30, 2008** – The deadline to enter the State Department of Education’s music composition contest for students. Idaho high school and college students are eligible to enter. The winning composition will receive \$500. Learn more about the contest rules at <http://www.sde.state.id.us/newsandpress/mediacenter.asp>. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Peggy Wenner at (208) 332-6949 or [PJWenner@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:PJWenner@sde.idaho.gov).
- **May 30, 2008** – The deadline to register for the fourth Annual Summer Institute for Effective Teaching of American Indian Students, which will be held from June 23-26, 2008. The conference, held by Lewis-Clark State College, targets teachers, school administrators, certified staff, paraprofessionals, school board members and others who work with Native American students. The conference costs \$175 per person, and the deadline to register is. For more information, contact Bill Hayne at (208) 792-2080 or [BHayne@lcsc.edu](mailto:BHayne@lcsc.edu) or Lisa Guzman at (208) 792-2743 or [LMGuzman@lcsc.edu](mailto:LMGuzman@lcsc.edu).
- **June 10, 2008** – The deadline to turn in submissions for Alternative Authorization. The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will be conducting a meeting to approve Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate district requests on June 10. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or [CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov). Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
Boise, ID 83720-0027
- **June 15, 2008** – Data for the school libraries survey must be submitted to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The Commission is collecting annual statistics for the current 2007-2008 school year, the pilot year for an ongoing initiative. The data will help assess the correlation between Idaho’s school libraries and student achievement. Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-library-stats> to get started on the survey. If you have any questions, contact: Frank Nelson, [frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov) or Debby Wylie, [debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov](mailto:debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov) or call them at 800-548-6212.
- **July 1, 2008** – The deadline to apply for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund’s 2008 National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program, which identifies outstanding high school journalism teachers with at least three years’ experience who have done exemplary work in the 2007-2008 academic year. For more information, visit <http://www.newspaperfund.org/>.
- **July 10, 2008** – Applications for Regular Session Alternative Secondary School are due to the State Department of Education. These applications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/AlternativeSchools/default.asp>. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the application, please contact Lori Howard at (208) 332-6902 or at [LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents’ Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at [www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear). Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.